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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/979,591	11/16/2001	Udo Winter	WINTER ET AL-4(PCT)	2851

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Roslyn, NY 11576

EXAMINER

BRAHAN, THOMAS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/979,591

Applicant(s)

WINTER ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas J. Brahan

Art Unit

3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23,24 and 26-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 26 and 28-32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23,24 and 27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

1. Claims 26 and 28-32 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected species and sub-species. Election was made without traverse in Paper No. 7.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.


3. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mantel in view of DE 3804557 (cited by applicant). Mantel shows the basic claimed boom with a curved profile to lift over obstructions. It varies from claims 33 and 34 by being used on a lift crane instead of a bin hauling vehicle. DE '557 shows a telescopic boom used with a bin hauling vehicle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the curved telescopic boom of Mantel in other environments where a boom which can span obstacles would be desired, such as the telescopic boom of a bin hauling vehicle, as suggested and rendered obvious by DE '557. The arrangement of DE '557 has cylinders (43) in the cross beam for the traction elements which grip the sides of the bins, as recited in claim 34.

4. Claims 23, 24, and 27 are allowable. Claims 29 and 30, which were previously withdrawn from consideration, would be allowable with these claims, as claim 23 is generic to their species. Claims 26, 28, 31 and 32 are not allowable, as claim 23 is not generic to their species. They remain withdrawn from consideration and should be canceled.

5. Gilbert and Armando et al are cited as showing cross-beams with rotating slings.

6. Applicant argues in the amendment filed August 6, 2003, that the ropes (15') of DE '557 are not adjustable relative to each other, as recited in claim 33. However the rejection indicated that cylinders (43) were considered as part of the adjustable traction elements, not the ropes. Note that the term "traction element" is broad and reads on these cylinders which move (adjust) the gripper elements at the corners (and ends) of the cross-beam of the reference..

7. An inquiry concerning this action should be directed to Examiner Thomas J. Brahan at telephone number (703) 308-2568 on Mondays through Fridays from 9:30-7:00 EST. The examiner's supervisor, Ms. Eileen Lillis, can be reached at (703) 308-3248. The fax number for Technology Center 3600 is (703) 305-7687.


THOMAS J. BRAHAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER